

the

# KALIFORNSKI

Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

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## PRINCE DANILO and the "MERRY WIDOW"

### Part II

#### FRANZ LEHAR

Much about Franz Lehar is relatee in his biography, "Gold & Silver." He was Viennese but not of Austrian heritage as were so many in this cosmopolitan city. The Lehar family said it all started from the time of Napoleon's invasion of Russia, when an army officer was captured. During his subsequent escape he hid in a forest of Monrovia (which today is part of Czechoslovakia) and a girl from the village Ulezic found him and helped him to survive. Finally they fell in love with one another and got married.

In German the name is spelled simply *Lehar*; in Czech it is *Léhar* and in Hungarian *Lehár*; then it was found that Lehar's roots actually were in France and the name came from the name of the "Marquise Le Hard."

Franz Lehar's mother was Hungarian and at home they spoke Hungarian. Because of this heritage he was motivated by Gypsy life and composed his "Gypsy Love," and some writers thought he was Hungarian. But actually most of his life was lived in Vienna, and he also served in the Austro-Hungarian army. He was still in the army when he started to write his famous "Merry Widow."

In Europe during this period of time there were many musical celebrities such as the Italians Toscanini and Caruso, the Russian Chaliapin as well as many others. But the most interesting event in Lehar's life was his association with two libretto writers, Victor Leo and Leo Stein, as well as Victor's friend, Pianist Alfred Grunfeld, who personally knew Prince Danilo, and who presented him with a life portrait of himself in full national costume with the signature "The Crown Prince Danilo." They succeeded in procuring an identical costume and "Danilo" appeared on the stage as he did in real life, and this became a great success on stage. This national costume, incidentally, is known as one of the most beautiful in Europe.

As we have previously said, Danilo's father was furious over Lehar's exploitation and ridicule of his son on the stage. Meanwhile Danilo as a young man did not take this seriously. At the same time, however, there were big anti-Austrian and anti-"Merry Widow" demonstrations in Cetinje (the capital of Montenegro), Triest and Constantinopol. Also in Vienna the Montenegrin Ambassador protested, and this is how this operetta at that time became more political than artistic, but at the same time, it also became very popular for the reason that it actually was a real life story of a Prince from a tiny Principality.

\*

After returning home, Captain Slavo told what had happened when they arrived in Paris: first, they received an invitation for a party from a "noble lady," a rich widow from Monrovia by the name of Hana, and they accepted the invitation believing they were going to meet some European-born Princes and Princesses, just as Danilo's father had expected. But they found out for one thing instead that Hana (known on the stage as Sonja) had a tainted reputation, and secondly that she was much older than Danilo. And to top this, as soon as the invitation was accepted, she was very quick to spread a rumor . . . . "Prince Danilo is going to propose to me!", and that was the very way in which to spread scandal rapidly. It appeared as though everything had been pre-arranged to happen before it was too late to get out of a trap.

As soon as the scandalous news arrived from Paris, Franz Lehar was ready to start work on a new operetta that he had been waiting to write for a very long time. Because of his antagonistic feelings toward the Slavs and Serbs, and in particular Danilo as he was a Serb, he became the leading character of his new operetta. At that time Lehar was still Capel-Master in an Infantry Regiment in the town of Celje, Slovenia.

The popularity of his opera spread at the time when Austria-Hungary was taking action against panslavism in the Slav provinces where the spirit of freedom was on the rise. Consequently Danilo's personality was victimized in the public eyes of Europe.

After playing in London, the "Merry Widow" went to New York, and after that Franz Lehar became one of the richest men in Vienna, as well as one of the largest land owners of real estate of that fair city.

*The above is the second part of an article on Franz Lehar and the historical facts behind the writing of his famous operetta, "the Merry Widow." Part One, telling about the real-life Prince Danilo of Montenegro, was presented in the October issue of the Kalifornski. The final part will be included next month. Thanks to YACO member Nikola Radovich for this material.*

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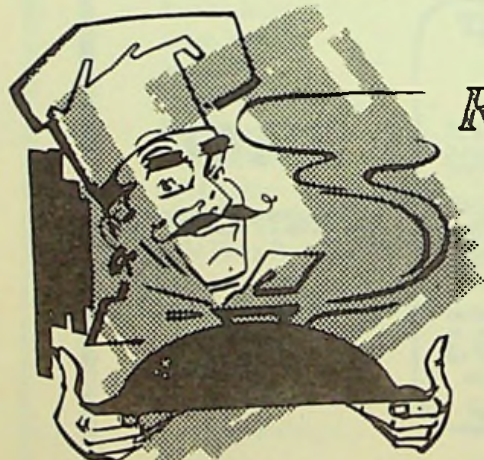


# *Here Comes Christmas* **DINNER**

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# Potpourri

Presented as submitted by  
BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

Christmas Dinner is upon us, I hope you have made your reservations, a new twist to the evening will be an usherette to take you to the seats that are available, that way we hope to have less single seats scattered around and make more room at the same time, we will have dancing and good music as usual, also Santa Claus will make an appearance, I think the doors will open at four and Santa will be there at five-thirty, so come early and stay late . . . The Nov. 1st was just great the elections went well, one slate of officers was presented, moved, seconded, and approved, like Ron said same faces just new places . . . The film that Andy presented was really great, it was about the Franulovich, but also presented an Italian, and Jewish family. then he also had an extension about the Franulovich family, their trials and tribulations as immigrants, it was a very emotional, Patriotic, and reminiscent for the older generations, as Ellis Island closed in 1954, at the family gatherings the served "Prikle," which always makes me think of Nevenka Radich, she makes it traditional at most of our functions, many thanks Nevenka . . . Look elsewhere in the Kalifornski for the notice but in March we will be having Vesna Markulin Dye, she will do a complete presentation for one and all, so be sure to circle the 6th of March . . . I found out during the world series that E.R.A. means earned run average, and all this time I thought it had something to do with equal rights, isn't that odd??? . . . All of our Good Thoughts and Positive Energies go out to Jeanette Jacinto (Shirley Hamblin's mother), Nick Derpich and Family, and Eva Bulich and Family . . . Congratulations to Tony and Emme Colendich, they have an addition to their family, on Nov. 1st Mark and Carolyn presented Stephanie Marie (8lbs, 20 oz/ 20½"), what a darling name . . . Familiar names and faces M/M Steve Zalac, M/M Herb Stocking, Nick Miloslavich, Ella Korach, Walter Zurowski, Lena Derpich, Nick Derpich, Geri Heebner, Margaret Biskup, Kate Bjelokosich, Ann Backovich, Irene Strazicich, Jo Puhera, Nina Matulich, Gulermovich, Jurickovich, Naida Nicholas . . . One last reminder about the dinner on Dec. 6th, be sure and call me, I would hate for you to miss out.  
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M/M Antone Shane	Mike Stubblefield	M/M D. Knode	



# Crazy Quilts

The following article was taken from the September/October 1987 issue of "RUBBERSTAMPMADNESS." It was submitted by YACO member Mrs. Yaka Lipanovich Bacina, mother of the artist, Kata Patton, whose work is the subject of the article. Kata's brother Tony Lipanovich is also a local YACO member. Another brother, Chris Basina lives in Alameda and sister Fran Huston lives in Livermore.

If anyone can "Reach Out And Stamp Someone" it's Kata Patton. And that's the expression this California artist has been stamping on all her mail these days.

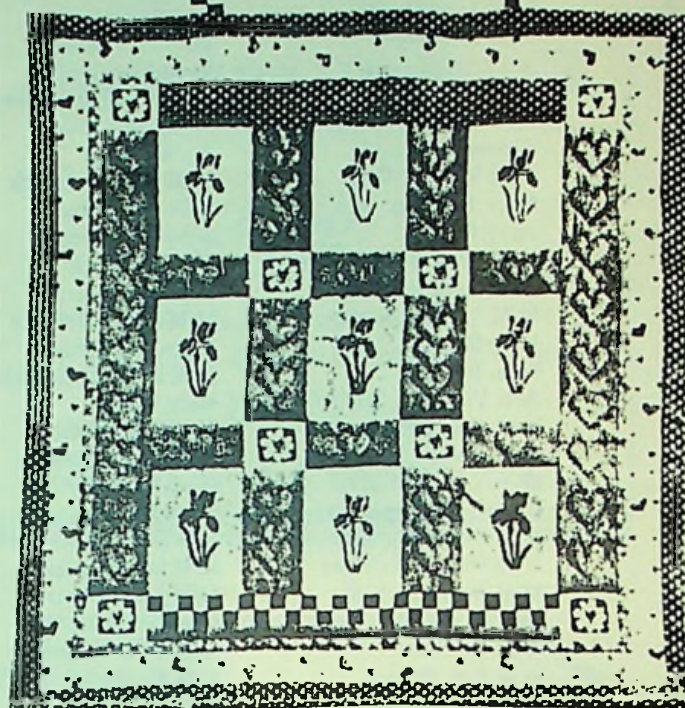
Kata's an indefatigable stamper. Her output of textile pieces alone attests to this fact. She's made large and small quilted wall hangings, vests, ornaments, stuffed animals and even puffy pins for her local quilting group. All Kata's work has brightly colored stampings on it, most often done with Kata's own, hand-carved eraser stamps.

She started stamping not long after reading *The Rubber Stamp Album* by Joni Miller and Lowry Thompson. She'd noticed some of David Mekelburg's work in the book and, when she took a graphic design class from David, she asked him to show the class how to carve erasers.

"He graciously agreed, and I've been carving ever since," she says. "I find it to be very therapeutic. It's very soothing and relaxing and satisfies some of my creative urges and needs. I've loved working with fabric since I was a child and my mother and grandmother taught me how to sew. *Thanks forever, Ma!*"

Kata put her two loves together in her hand-stamped quilted pieces. One is a 40" x 56" quilt that has images of penguins, alphabets and hearts stamped on it. The piece is also embellished with Seminole patchwork, hand-quilting, and puffy, add-on hearts. A smaller work features hand-carved iris stamp images, along with hearts and a jaunty flower design with a heart in its center.

Kata also makes one-of-a-kind clothing, like her "I Love A Cow—Udderly" vest. She's even hand-stamped fabric for stuffed animals and Christmas ornaments.

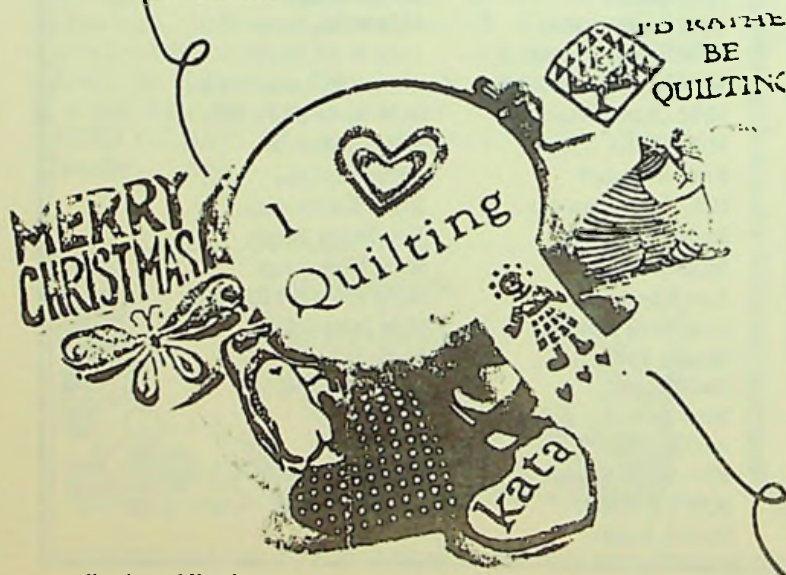


A quilted wall hanging with stamped irises and hearts measures 20" x 21". The colors are white, purple and green.

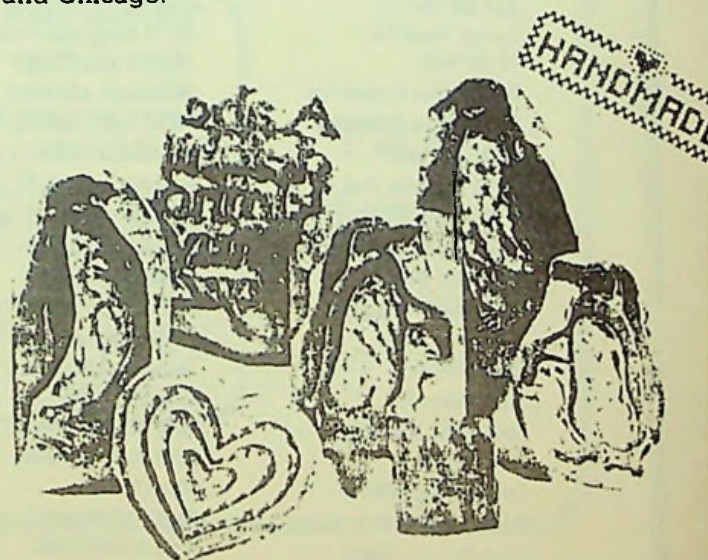
Her favorite fabric for all these projects is 100 percent unbleached cotton muslin. "It's so blank, you can create like mad!" she says. She also uses other cottons and satin.

Before stamping, Kata washes the fabric in warm water and soap to remove any sizing. She then dries it thoroughly to insure there'll be no further shrinkage. Her work surface is the top of a wooden table covered with lots of layers of newspapers. Her favorite ink for stamping is Naz Dar. She says she gets the clearest images with this product and buys it directly from the company, which has branches in Los Angeles and Chicago.

B



A collection of Kata's smaller accessories includes puffy penguin, cat, doll and quilting pins.



Kata hand-carved erasers for stamping her large "Going To The Savoy" quilt at right.



Kata's stamping procedure is to place a layer of felt on a small plate and then spread ink on it with a spoon. She cuts the felt a little larger than the largest stamp she plans to use and reinks as needed. When done, Kata will wrap her ink pad up in Saran Wrap to be reused another day.

Kata allows the ink to dry on the fabric then irons it to set the ink.

This textile artist expects the unexpected and it often happens. She's always on the look-out for fabric stamping materials. One day she spotted a sponge in her local dairy store. It was perfect for cutting into various shapes for stamping on fabric.

Kata encourages others to experiment with their stampings, carvings and textile work. She's used all kinds of combinations and even stamped on gunny sack material, yielding some "funky results."

Anyone interested in purchasing Kata's one-of-a-kind clothing, her hand-carved erasers or inquiring about a workshop, can reach her at 1629 Ben Franklin Dr., Tulare, CA 93274. Her work has been shown at Stampart West in Long Beach, CA; The Second Rubber Stamp Expo in Boston; Lyon Gallery in Redland, CA; and at the 10th Annual Quilt Camp in Sierra Summit, CA. She's won a Best of Quilted Clothing Award at the 9th Biennial Nimble Thimble Needlework Show and her penguin quilt won the Originality Award at the Fresno Fiber Guild Show.

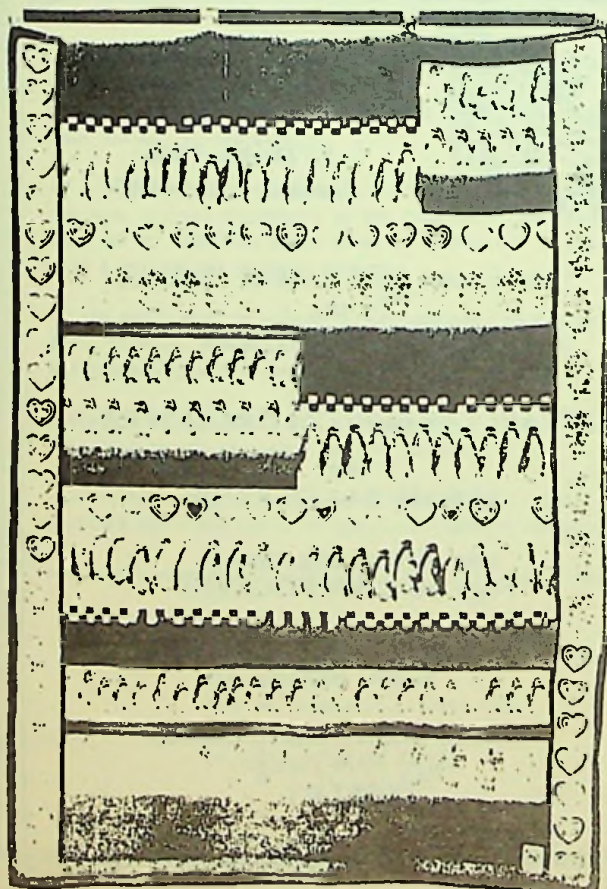
—R.S.



A purple and white stuffed, stamped pussy cat wears a brass bell around her neck.



A wearable, udderly funny vest is stamped with black cows, green and purple lettering, and purple hearts on white muslin. Two inside pockets have cows stamped on them and the admonition, "Love a Cow! Moo."



A large wall hanging, 40" x 56", titled "Going To The Savoy!" The colors are black, white and hot pink. Kata used cotton and satin fabrics.

Gary & Kata Patton  
1629 Ben Franklin Drive  
Tulare, California 93274



# Quick Bits *by Sneaky Pete*

NOTES RE: SANTA SUPPER — A minor change on the Christmas Dinner time schedules: doors open at 4:00 p.m., Santa at 5:30, and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Also — contact Babe (724-1284) about donations to be raffled off at the dinner.

MARK IT SPECIAL — The March 6th meeting will be an outstanding evening with a 2 hour program (from real Yugo food, to pictures and music) put together by photographer/folk culturist Vesna Markulin Dye. Be sure you don't miss this one!

LIFE MEMBERS — at the November 1st meeting an amendment to YACO's By-Laws previously proposed by Joan Jurickovich was passed and reads as follows:

"YACO members who reach the age of 80 and have been continuous paid up members for the preceding 5 years will be classified as Honorary Life members and shall be excused from paying dues."

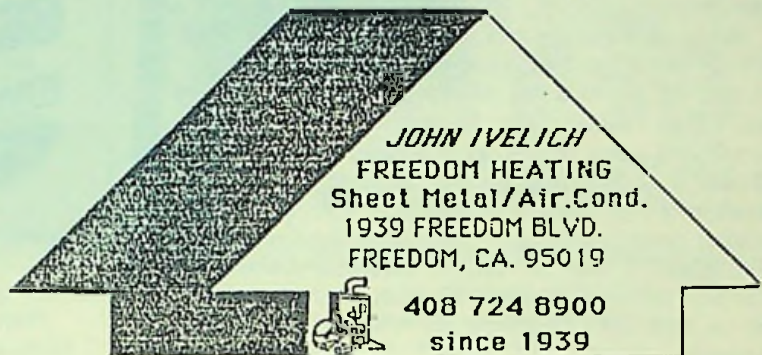
So if you qualify, contact Ron about receiving your Honorary Life Membership card.

IN MEMORIAM — Not only did we lose Katy Derpich this past month, but Antone Bulich. We want to take this opportunity to express our sympathy to their families, and to say that both will be sorely missed at YACO functions.

## Yugoslav Radio Hour

REMEMBER to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on the dial.

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# JOIN US TODAY

YACO was established in 1979 as a non-profit club without political or religious ties for the sole purpose of bringing together Yugoslavs and other interested persons to make known and to preserve our Slavic heritage. We are proud that among our membership we have families and individuals whose roots represent each region of present-day Yugoslavia, as well as non-slavic members who support the club's goals.

A year-around series of programs and events has proven an enjoyable way for YACO to provide its focus on Slavic heritage. Such activities include picnics, lectures and slide presentations on Yugoslavia and its historic culture, plus potluck and sit-down dinners. We also publish a monthly newsletter, THE KALIFORNSKI, full of interesting articles, recipes, and news of our area's Yugoslav community.

Our meetings (the first Sunday of each month) may include a potluck, special dinner, films, dancing, and raffles, plus we hold an annual July barbeque.

Won't you accept our invitation to join us? We're sure you'll soon find YACO to be one of your favorite clubs.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership ..... \$12  
Family membership ..... \$18

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Husband: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Yugoslav Background: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Children under 18 included in Family Membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to share or see published in this newsletter, please let us know. We would appreciate your input in publishing this newsletter each month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us:

Dale Skillicorn and  
Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn  
c/o Rapid Offset Printing  
22 East Lake Avenue  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
(408) 724-2900

## SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Trips by YACO members
2. Visitors from the Old Country
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs
6. Yugoslav recipes
7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Yugoslav stories for children
10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members

## NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of each month so that we might get the paper out even earlier. It seems that our members out of Watsonville are not receiving their KALIFORNSKI early enough to plan on attending any of our programs. Members in Watsonville receive their copies at least two days after mailing so it seems to be a problem with a hold up at the post office. If I don't have the information in time, I will not be able to publish it until the next issue. REMEMBER to send me any information by the 10th of each month.



# OFFICERS

President:

RON HILL .....724-1284

Vice President:

GEORGE JURICKOVICH.....722-4444

Secretary:

EMME COLENDICH .....724-6986

Treasurer/Financial Secretary:

CAROLE GOSPODNETICH.....724-7652

Publicity Director:

## No Paper?

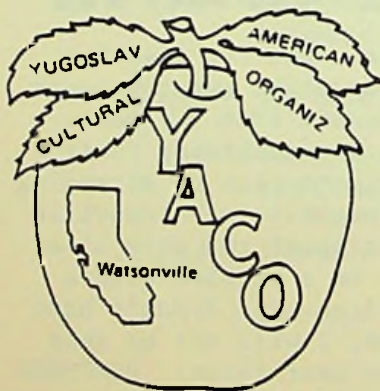
If someone you know is not receiving the KALIFORNSKI, please let us know. We publish this for you, the membership, and would like each of you to have the opportunity to keep in touch with YACO. Contact us at Rapid Offset Printing, 22 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 - (408) 724-2900.

Dale Skillicorn and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn

## YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

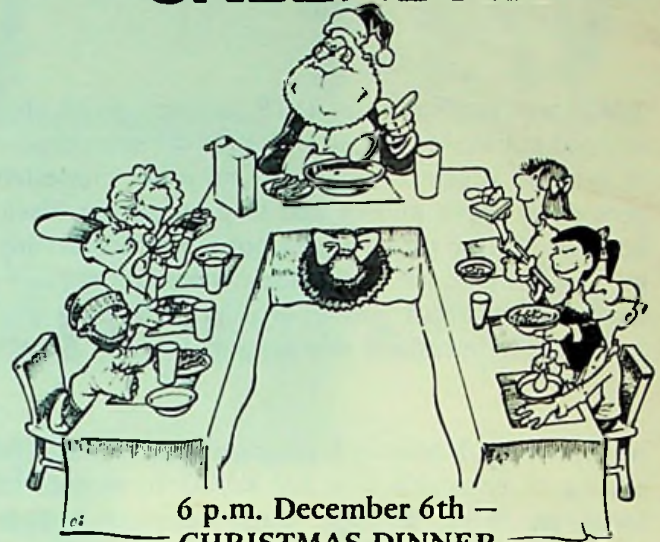
P.O. Box 226

Watsonville, CA. 95077



Ann Backovich  
21 Jefferson St.  
Watsonville, Ca. 95076

# CALENDAR



6 p.m. December 6th -  
**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

*Reservations only.*

Roast Pork, Potatoes, Onions & all the trimmings.  
Card carrying members \$10 / Non-members \$12  
Children under 12 half price



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U.S. Postage

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CA 95077

# KALIFORNSKI

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED